



Lelaki Dalam Ingatan

Penny Jordan

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Bagaimana cara lelaki itu menuntut balas?

Pada usia enam belas tahun, Courage Bingham masih lugu dan tak berpengalaman, tapi tubuhnya dengan bergairah bereaksi ketika merasakan tangan-tangan remaja yang kokoh membelainya dalam kegelapan rumah musim panas keluarganya. Sejak itu persaan malu dan besalah menyiksanya, bercampur kerinduan yang sama besarnya kepada orang asing yang tak dikenal dan tak dilihanya itu.

Kini, Courage cemas panca indranya memperminkannya. Gideon Reynolds, bos barunya yang tak kenal ampun dan beroman keras, dapat membangkitkan gairah Courage seperti satu-satunya lelaki lain yang sanggup melakukannya. Mungkinkah mereka orang yang sama? Dan, jika benar begitu, bagaimana cara Gideon menuntut balas atas "penipuan" Courage di masa lalu?

Lelaki Dalam Ingatan Details

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From Reader Review Lelaki Dalam Ingatan for online ebook

Jenny says

I don't mind cruel alpha heroes. In fact I love them. But this one was pure evil and a sadist. He was just too much even for me. Poor heroine she suffered so much abuse and pain. This book was definitely not a romance or a love story.

boogenhagen says

Re An Unforgettable Man - Penny Jordan's editor called again. It seems Roberta Leigh is on her way out and there just isn't any of the old guard left to write your ultimate Nematode Slime Pustule Hero or submit a fifth entry in the Dangerous Liaisons series.

Robyn Donald was involved in her next three book miniseries, Sara Craven had semi-retired to one book a year at this point and Carole Mortimer gave up mostly nematode H's when culottes went out of fashion.

Plus, in order for the Sexual Blackmail by Nematode Slime Pustule Hero trope to work, the h has to be a certain type.

An RD h won't cut it, cause her h's would knee the H in the dangly bits and spit in their face before they would actually allow themselves to be used as a sex slave more than once.

Sara Craven's h might make the attempt, but ultimately SC h's prefer actual rape scenarios to coercion, which would not engender the suitable amount of Stockholm Lurve Force Mojo to get us to a believable SC HEA. (Plus an SC h does tend to be rather pragmatic and wouldn't have the necessary mental fragility to invoke true horror in the coercion scenario.)

A Charlotte Lamb h would probably wind up chaining the H to the bed and then parading him around in a collar and a leash, after appropriate food porn amounts of Dover Sole, Spanish Paella and a dollop of cherry preserves.

So that leaves PJ with her chaste and sensitive, pristine h's. Really an PJ h is ideal for plumbing the depths of this trope, because no other HP author's heroine's so strongly equivocate sex and love as being virtually inseparable. Sex IS love to a PJ heroine and there is not one ounce of practicality or a lessening of idealism in a PJ h.

So when coercive sex is introduced that has nothing to do with any type of love or affection, the mental torture and agony is multiplied by a factor of a gadzillion and we get ourselves a HUGE trainwrecky angstfest PJ HP outing.

Buckle up your seat belts, get appropriate wall padding ready for banging and pull out your Captain and your Tim Tams, we are going into the dark side of PJ's Province of HPlandia.

This one has our h newly back in England from a well liked job in Hong Kong and looking for work locally. The h's beloved granny needs a major heart operation, but the waiting list is two years, granny is really ill

and mostly the h is told just to enjoy what time granny has left.

Since granny rescued the h as a teenager from an incredibly perverted and sick pedophile stepfather and an equally corrupted stepsister, our h would do practically anything to be able to afford the private operation to get granny's heart fixed.

To the h's great relief, she soon gets a decent paying job as the comptroller for a millionaire businessman's corporate estate, complete with private golf course. Even better, our millionaire businessman is quite happy to lend the h the necessary funds to get granny her private operation.

Things are burbling along and there is an occasion for a magic roofie kiss. All of the sudden our unicorn grooming h is hurled back to when she was 16 and kissed her stepfather's garden boy and the magic burst all around her, just like now.

Unfortunately the aftereffects of that magic first kiss was the firing of the garden boy after he and the h were discovered and the tart shaming of the h by the step-father.

The h belatedly realizes that all of that was a set up by her stepsister to discredit the h with stepdaddy dearest, who wants to keep his sweet little peaches all to himself and doesn't like to share.

Apparently things went bad for a while with the garden boy after the firing incident. But that tough time hardened him enough to go after what he wanted and lo, he is now our millionaire businessman with a private golf course owner that the h is working for today.

Since the h has conveniently and easily put herself within his all powerful grasp.... Welp, revenge is a dish best served cold, but if you can it get hotted up with some genuine PJ HP Lurve Force Mojo Purple Passion, that is even better.

The H forces the h into becoming his on call blow up doll for multiple rounds of the lurve club boudoir bouncing. The h, who had fallen in love with the H from one kiss at 16 and then again when she started working for him recently, is horrified.

Mostly because she is rapidly coming to hate the H and his treatment of her. (Which includes flaunting the typical vain OW "Princess" and possibly having lurve club moments with the OW too. In one memorable scene the OW stays at the H's estate and the h goes to strip the OW's bed the next day and the H accuses the h of trying to steal the OW's used underwear.)

But even as the h cringes and shrinks from the H's verbally abusive and bullying tart shaming treatment, she just cannot help her Treacherous Body Syndrome. This is the source of the overwhelming angst and sheer stomach turning misery that is this book.

PJ vividly describes having a very, very unwanted pleasurable physical reaction while mentally loathing every second of the experience and it is enough to almost drive this h, (and the reader,) to a nervous breakdown.

The H doesn't let up either. He pushes and prods and the tart shaming verbosity is constant, as are the boudoir purple passion moments. Eventually the estate's cook gets the whole story out of the h when she hears her repeated nights of anguished sobbing and since the cook is only working for something to do so she doesn't drive her kid's nuts, she offers the h the money to repay the H.

The H refuses to accept it at first and tries more coercive moves on the h. But then the cook steps in and in one of the few HP instances of a secondary female character standing up to defend the heroine, she lets the H have it. He is a sadist and a bully and a rapist and he should be in prison making intimate friends with a guy named Killer for his sins.

The h escapes and the cook is right behind her. The h can go back to her old job in Hong Kong and the cook will look after granny once she recovers from her successful surgery. The H is left to stew in the HP mists for a few weeks, until the h has had enough PJ mopey moment time and then the big explanations can begin.

The H seeks out the h and apologizes for his actions. He went and talked to the h's granny and she explained the whole step family situation and the perversions that went on there. The H also admits that he was willing to try it on with stepsister anyways - he was lookin' for a little piking action himself and so he probably would have been fired even if it hadn't been a set up.

The H tries to apologize as he tells the h that the loan is completely written off and he hopes that makes up for what he did. The h lets him know that there is nothing he can say or do to make up for what he did to her.

He turned an innocent unicorn groomer into a tawdry and mentally diseased tramp and now the h can never have a decent marriage or a date because he has corrupted her forever.

The h rants on that even tho it is fine for men to feel lust, for a woman to have that experience is the ultimate in tawdry trampy behavior. Now the h is besmirched for life because how can any decent man love her after what the H made her?

The H objects to the word lust and goes on to describe feelings of longing, comfort and adoration and wanting to cuddle up with the other person, then he tells the h that he is describing his feelings, not hers.

It seems our nematode H has been haunted by the h's sweet kiss for years and years too. So when he found it again, he kinda lost his mind for a while, cause his independent Manly HP Mojo fiercely resented the h's hold on part of him and he had to punish her for that.

Now tho, if she will forgive him, he would like to marry her and lurve her up and have a houseful of plot moppets to adore along with their mother. Since this is a PJ h and the H had her at cuddles, the h rapidly agrees to whatever the H wants and we leave the two of them lurving up in a pinkly sparkly unicorn dancing PJ HP HEA.

On the surface of it, this book is nothing really unusual for HPlandia. We have had H and h quid pro quo arrangements before and there are literally thousands more awaiting HP voyagers in the future.

What sets this one apart from all the others is that PJ was exquisitely detailed and convincing in conveying the h's horrific mental anguish over the H's coerced seduction.

This book gets so many varied ratings because the descriptions of the h's experiences are so evocative of what it might actually feel like to be put into a situation like that.

The h's pain and torment is palpable, the reader is drawn into the maelstrom right along with the h and the lead up to the big denouement is extremely intense.

There are not too many writers that can provoke the visceral response that this book generates. PJ does it

with a style and flair that will leave you breathless with a true muscle clenching anticipation that guarantees you an unforgettable outing to the more whacktastic trainwrecky side of HPIlandia, if you are brave enough to travel there.

Julz says

3.5 stars rounded up

Spoilerfest to follow...

This bad boy has got quite a reputation of having a cruel and heartless hero. Yes and no.

This is a sort of reunion story in that the heroine, Courage, got an earth shattering kiss from mysterious stranger/hero, Gideon, when she was a virginal and tender 16 years old. The whole kissing scenario was a set-up put into action by a jealous step-sister who didn't like the attention her incestuous father was paying to Courage. Creepytastic, eh?

Anyway, the outcome was supposedly really horrible for the H whose path took him onto success and riches. (It was always in my mind that if that hadn't happened to him, he would be just a gardener instead of Mr. Money Bags. But, hey, it's the principle of the matter, right?)

The two meet up years later when he hires her to run his mansion, and loans her £10,000 for her poor old grandmother's operation. At this point, the h has no clue who he is because the previously mentioned earth shattering kiss happened in the dark. However, she did notice his excited evil glint when she signs on the dotted line.

Much of the story then drags on with her doing such a fine job while he goes out of town a lot to Kuwait to do landscaping. We eventually get to the good stuff about three-fourths of the way into the book. It starts with that first kiss. Or second, actually, yes?

Let's be clear, that first kiss from the faceless but awesome smelling stanger was enough to ruin her for any other men forever and ever. It was also why she was still a virgin into her 20s, because how could she consider anyone else when they could never make her feel the same!?! But you can guess what happens when she gets another taste. Yes! She recognizes him by his lips (though he's much more skilled now) and the little flutters he gives her in her tummy. Interesting.

Then he goes all big-alpha on her and bullies his way in the sack with her, while criticizing her for doing such a bang up job *pretending* to be a virgin. (*Humph!* All that blood and injury can't fool me lady!) Despite his asshatness, she is in eternal bliss and knows it is *love*. He leaves for Kuwait bright and early the next morning before she wakes and she spends days anxiously daydreaming about their new relationship and how she's going to tell him about their real first meeting. However, when he finally comes home, instead of the lover's welcome and the anticipated heart-to-heart, he brings home a hot widow whom he wines and dines the rest of the night. *Coooold!*

When they finally get a chance to talk, it's revealed that he actually *does* remember her and his whole plan was to get his revenge...by forcing her to be his sex slave!! But don't despair, she gets off every time. This supposedly goes on for quite a while, even while he continues to take off on little trips to meet with the

widow.

The h finally breaks down and spills her guts to the cook she hired who happens to have huge nest egg. She loans her the money to repay the H so she can hightail it out of there. Two or three weeks pass and the H appears uninvited in her living room. We get the big grovel scene where we learn that he only did what he did because his powerful love for her made him insanely jealous, causing him to lose his mind, and coerce her to repeatedly have sex with him. He begs her back and promises to take it slow but she suggests they jump straight into bed to make new memories. How sweet.

So, really, how can we stay mad at the guy? Yes, he trapped her into being his personal whore. Yes, he used her poor sick granny as a means to do it. Yes, he took her virginity while accusing her of being a slut in mid thrust. Yes, he would have happily continued to do so for years and years if she didn't coincidentally have a generous friend to loan her the money to get out of her contract. But it wasn't *really* who he was (the h indirectly said so herself early in the story!) And the stepfather *told* him she was a conniving slut (forgot to mention that) so he just *knew* she used her blossoming flower to set him up, which gave him the *right* to retaliate. But after granny set him straight about about the h, he admitted how wrong he was and was willing to beg forgiveness. So, again, how can we stay mad?

Diya says

Read this for third time now. First I read this I was shaking my head - how and why did this get passed of as romance novel. It was not one and if anything Gideon is an unforgettable man, seriously the whole episode of the reverege took part in the last bit of the book but you felt the coming from the very begining. He did nothing but abuse the girl, what made it more galling was she was so innocent of all the blame and denying her innocent in every sense of the word. It was gripping read and he was lucky to even get Courage. He was obsessed with her and you know he was it just dynamic of the whole thing and how he was so cruel makes you feel her pain. Penny Jordan always gets in the heart and this is one of those book.

Like her name she going to need all the courage to see it through their HEA. At least she at end he didn't get full forgiveness and he has to work to get it. This was book you can't put down, I was gripped til the end.

Vintage says

Unforgettable is correcto-mundo.

Well, I can't say I wasn't warned.

The H is everything that the other reviewers said he was: rude, cruel, vengeful and crazy. I think what is most disturbing, more than his cruelty, is what a blithering idiot the heroine is falling so desperately in love with someone so horrible. I actually got a stomach ache reading this. No, not one of those stupid flutters that the heroine's get, but out and out nausea.

Once again, the magic penis strikes again.

The only good thing was her name, Courage. Not a very appropriate name in this case, Spineless or Pushover would have been better, but very cool.

I need a funny Harlequin, a palate cleanser. Maybe Cathy Williams.

KC says

According to Babynamewizard.com, the name Gideon is "derived from the Hebrew gidh`?n (hewer, one who cuts down)". And boy, is that accurate! Gideon certainly crushed poor, sweet Courage's teenage dreams of love and happy ever afters. . . .

I found *An Unforgettable Man* riveting more for the high drama than the romance or even the "unforgettable" hero. Maybe my expectations were excessively high because of the hype or I'm just too jaded, but I didn't think Gideon was as cruel as I thought he would be. Read a vintage Charlotte Lamb or Robyn Donald and then get back with me. Both authors had the asshat hero down to a fine art.

The fact that Gideon did not premeditate his sexual blackmail of Courage improved my opinion of him for the better. Gideon seemed motivated more by jealousy than any desire for revenge, being caught up in a crime of passion so to speak. (view spoiler) With all this said, Gideon was no saint. I'm happy he apologized, but his groveling didn't come anywhere near to being satisfying. (view spoiler)

Courage (an ironic name) was a sensitive and romantic soul. Her anxious daydreams about Gideon after their first night together oozed so much sweetness my teeth ached. But I didn't need to worry about cavities or anything else—unlike Courage, who would need all the strength she could muster to deal with Gideon.

A dark, mesmerizing tale about love and hate!

Danielle The Book Huntress (Back to the Books) says

The hero in this book is a hard man and is on the cruel side to the heroine, blackmailing her for sex. But man was it a book that was hard to put down.

Lynsey A says

I read this book in college, which was some time ago but I distinctly recall that the hero was AWFUL to the heroine pretty much up to the last 10 pages or so. It wasn't until someone else told him what really happened that he was all sweetness and nice. In fact I'm not quite sure why I still own this one. Perhaps as a reminder of what not to write, if I ever did.

Jasbell76 says

I started to read this book in 2011 and I haven't finished it yet XD I left the book in chapter 9! I have almost

finished reading it, but I don't know... I didn't feel the romance in this story, the hero is SO CRUEL, I think is one of the cruelest heros I have ever found in romance book, trust me! I think that is the only reason the book is called AN UNFORGETTABLE MAN, He is REALLLY UNFORGETTABLE!

XX

Updated
(March/15/2015)

Sapheron says

This is either a one star or five star rating; it's obvious which I chose. He is probably the CRUELEST hero I have ever come across - no lie. I think he was even slightly insane (made so by what had happened between them years before). Other heroes have blackmailed heroines into their beds before, hell, the story line might even be the same - she accepts a business loan (which he paid for from his personal expenses?WHAT?) to pay for her grandma's heart surgery. It is a loan she can only pay back by working for him for the next two years. So, when she realizes he blames her for what had happened to him and their relationship is hopeless and thus tries to renegotiate the debt, he refuses all her ideas and threatens to claim it from her recovering grandma if she doesn't become his sex slave.

What the f*cking f*ck right?

Then, when they're having sex and her inexperience begins to show he's like; "stop acting like a virgin, we both know what a big fat slut you are." Normally... as seasoned HP readers we're used to just such a scenario, but this dude has got to be the WORST judge of character or, as I suspect, completely crazy (bat-sh*t like) to miss what he's doing to her.

The chick comes out of it so messed up (and this is why it earned five stars - Penny Jordan can make you empathize in the most embarrassing way) that she begins to feel - because she still loves him though she hates herself for it - that she isn't worthy of being loved by anybody decent. I mean, after years of holding on to a dream of her one special love and finding what was behind door number two instead...

I have the worst case of heartburn now because of this book. It is 16:44 and I haven't eaten yet, and my bladder is SO full (tmi right?) but I had to get this off my chest. Any book that gets this type of rise out of me deserves a full set of stars, regardless of how much I think the hero didn't deserve his HEA.

P.S. why is it that authors (women authors in particular, Penny Jordan especially) think it's ok to cancel out 99% of emotional torture and physical abuse (of a purely sexual nature of course) with .5% of an apology from the hero, .25% groveling, and .25% a proposal of marriage and future promises he should be too ashamed to even think about asking for?

Sandra IsAMoodyCowWhenSheCan'tRead says

I'm a bit of a loss on how to rate this book.

I think Penny J was trying to make a statement and I would have liked to applaud it. She took on the subject of domestic sexual molestation of teenage girls and tried to work it into a HP book. Unfortunately, it just didn't gel for me. Though H had nothing to do with the abuse in the beginning, PJ wrote it so that he almost became the villain and the original perpetrators, the h's stepsister and stepfather were nowhere to be seen later in the book so justice was never served. It felt like PJ wanted to put a message out but it was vague and

to me ended up being an uncomfortable farce.

Courage is the name of the heroine and I had to keep checking myself because Courage, the Cowardly Dog, from an animated show, kept coming to my mind.

Background story: h is having a pretty rotten life with her new stepfamily. Her stepsister appears to be having a incestuous relationship with her stepfather, and is jealous of her. Though the stepfather is not sexually abusive to the h, his inappropriate innuendos and attention is making her uncomfortable. Her stepsister also continually puts her down and taunts her. She manipulates the h into pretending to be her one night and go meet the H, who was then just a mere gardener boy, in the dark garden shed to break off the relationship.

H and h have their first intimate encounter a la PJ style. However H realises she's not her stepsister, puts a halt to their groping, shames her for making a fool of him and leaves. Stepfather catches wind of their little rendezvous and fires him. H holds a grudge as he has it rough for a long time and had to live on the streets. h also suffers the humiliation of being viewed as a slut by the step-family. Thankfully, her maternal grandmother rescues her from this situation and she leaves to live with her.

Years later, both H and h have made something of their lives and now meet up professionally. Without the aid of the dark shed and the inconvenience of broad daylight, neither appear to recognise each other. He is kind and generous enough to loan her money to pay for her grandmother's surgery to save her life. The book begins with their interview so for a good half of the book, it's a fabulous PJ read: H seems like the alpha male but with a heart of gold and h, though still haunted by fuzzy visions of garden boy, is falling in love with her boss.

Then H suddenly decides to call out on his favour for the loan and asks for sex. We find out he always knew she was that girl in the shed and was happy to be handed the opportunity for revenge. Well, what did she expect with an unusual name like Courage? Always name your kids sensibly, people. You never know when it may come back to bite you.

So now he blackmails her for sex using the threat of pulling back the loan. This bizarre twist for angst made no sense to me, as did the about-turn of making Cook, yes cook, the cook she hired to cook for him, suddenly stand up to the H and tell him off for his bad blackmail behaviour and threaten the police on him. Apparently Cook also has money so she helps h give him a cheque for the loan so she can say sayonara and leave him.

Then Cook seduces h, h realises she's a lesbian and they both live HEA.

No, I'm kidding but it might as well have gone that way for the bizarre way this was written.

Not the best from PJ but it was ok.

KatieV says

Wow. This one is intense. Penny Jordan knew how to keep you reading even when you were furious. Willaful termed this a "fabulous wallbanger" and that's a pretty darn accurate tag if there ever was one.

Trigger warnings galore (just read the tags).

I think other reviewers have done a fabulous job of illustrating what a raging bastard the hero was, so I won't belabor the point.

What earned it a four and what kept it from getting that 5 star rating:

The hero sucked, period. Issues, issues, issues. However, he was so cruel and devious that you just had to keep reading for the train wreck factor of it.

The heroine was placed in a really bad situation with truly no way out. This wasn't one of those where you're screaming "just leave, you damn idiot, your half-brother's cousin's girlfriend can find a new damn job! Stop being such a pathetic martyr!".

She couldn't leave. He'd sewn her up tight and the only way she could leave (until the end) was to feed her beloved grandmother to the big bad wolf that passed for a hero. Trope city? Heck yeah, but Penny knew how to bring on the angst none the less.

There have been books where horrific things have happened to the heroine and I've been cruel enough to giggle because the author conveyed the emotional depth of a mud puddle. I simply couldn't have cared less what happened to *anyone* in the story, no matter how horrible it was. Some of these older romances are like an unintentional black comedy.

In this I did feel the heroine's pain. The 'traitorous body' trope was handled in a more realistic/sensitive way. It dealt with the real emotional trauma/shame of finding your own body respond to something against your will. That happens to some rape victims. We're animals, our bodies were designed to respond in a certain way to certain stimuli. We can't always control it and that DOES NOT equal consent. Regardless of what some dbag may say. One character even went so far as to call the heroine a rape victim. However, the heroine denied that was true because she was drinking the response = consent kool-aid and it made her hate herself. I cried a bit and that is RARE for an HP or anything, really. I'm not a big crier.

This would have been the 5 star "fabulous wallbanger" if it weren't for the ending. I realize the series novels are short and the author must work within those constraints. However, IMHO at least 10-20 pages could have been cut from the first half in order to make the hero suffer more. I'd have liked to have seen her send him away a few times and make him work for it A LITTLE BIT. I am tired of the trope of the hero showing up looking older and skinnier and that passing for his penance. I want to see some blood :)

willaful says

Yes, this made the coveted "fabulous wallbanger" shelf! This may even be the best Penny Jordan book I've ever read... or maybe "best" isn't the right word here. More like "most exciting"..."angtiest"..."most fabulous wallbanger."

The basic premise is similar to one Jordan had used before, in books like Injured Innocent: our heroine Courage (yes, that is her name) has never been in a relationship because of a youthful sexual trauma involving our hero/bastard Gideon, although she doesn't at first recognize him when they meet again. What makes this story different is partially that Jordan builds up suspense about Gideon's actions and motivations (rather than just having him snipe nastily at Courage for the entire book, as her heroes often do) and partially that Courage's feelings about the incident have a positive side. She's carrying a lot of shame, but she's also

been fantasizing about that dream lover for years. And when she realizes Gideon is him and thinks he feels the same way about her -- that's when the fun really begins.

Gideon is horrific, that pretty much goes without saying. What makes it work for me is that he obviously has intensely strong feelings about Courage, even against his will. We don't see his point of view, but the love/hate comes through clearly. And the payoff works: he's horrible, she suffers, he realizes what's he done and then he suffers. Just the way I like 'em.

Not for the weak of heart or stomach, but a great read if you like this sort of thing.

StMargarets says

Re-read. July 2018

Still intense. Still held me enthralled. Still can't believe she didn't recognize him earlier.

Original Review:

A revenge story that requires the reader to believe that he wouldn't immediately recognize the only man she ever had a sexual encounter with, and that the hero wouldn't have figured out that the girl he was messing around with was only 16 and not at all experienced. But that is the premise and once you go with that, you can see the heroine walking into disaster from the moment she signs her employment contract with the now-rich hero.

What PJ does best here is to surround the heroine with menace and uncertainty - even her memories with her step-family are horrifying. The stepfather was some sort of sexual predator (who may or may not have abused his daughter). The stepsister was horrible, the heroine's mother useless. But she escaped only to enter a new landscape of sexual humiliations and entrapment.

Her grandmother is in precarious health as are the heroine's finances. She takes a job as housekeeper to the hero and "falls in love" with him even after he treats her with contempt. He thinks she got him fired long ago and bedding her and having her under his control is his revenge.

(view spoiler)

This one had a lot of drama and angst and the hero was sufficiently cruel (with some wobbles to show his true feelings) all the way through until the grovel. No punches were pulled.

Books&Friends says

I read this one a long time ago and while I was flipping through Jordan's list I spotted this book. This one is pretty "Unforgettable" for the fact the so-called hero treated the heroine despicably.

Years earlier Gideon was working for some rich guy landscaping and he had the hots for the daughter. The

said daughter sent Courage (author's joke?) in her stead for a pre-arranged assignation with the hero. The young heroine had a crush and went to tell Gideon the hot chick wasn't coming. Somehow she winds up in his arms making out when suddenly he discovers he has the wrong gal and flips. Brutally making mincemeat and mentally traumatizing the heroine.

The truth was the gal setup Gideon and Courage and let's her father dump the so-called-hero. He's bitter and carries this with him and acts on it when the two meet again.

He hires her, trapping her because she's desperate, forces her to have sex with him and she's unable to flee because he paid for a relative's (grandmother I think) surgery. He demeans and acts crazy jealous. I remember thinking this guy has some kind of psychosis. Totally weird, controlling, physical behavior. Courage finally breaks away and Gideon gets religion. He does grovel but it's has this icky overtone to it. What happens if she does something he doesn't like in the future?

I still shiver thinking about this one.

My take.
